

IOWA BIRD LIFE

Fall 1991 Volume 61 Number 4



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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FRONT COVER: Young Red-shouldered Hawks in nest, Allamakee County, May 1983. Photo by Jon Stravers, Pella, IA.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Editorial Staff, Subscription/Membership Information, Instructions to Authors, Officers, Board of Directors, Standing Committees.

BACK COVER: Meeting Dates, Report Deadlines, Birdline, Materials Available.



The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$15 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$15); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member without publications (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$15 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the I.O.U.); and Life (\$300 as single payment or \$75 for each of four years). Members will also receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

* 15-17 May 1992, Cedar Rapids

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653)

*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

*Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010)

*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 715 West St., Colo, IA 50056).

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010):

*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.

*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1987 Edition: 10 for \$1.65, 25 for \$3.50, 100 for \$11.60, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings for \$0.10 each.

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265.

ISSN 0021-0455

OFFICIAL CHECKLIST OF IOWA BIRDS 1991 EDITION

THOMAS H. KENT AND CARL J. BENDORF

This list includes all records through 1990. There are 384 species on the list, up from 371 in 1986 and 361 in 1982 (IBL 56:46-55; 52:67-76). The designations used for status of species that are given below are unchanged from 1986. The number of species in each category is given in parentheses. The status of species seen in 3, 4, or 8 of the last 10 years is determined by majority vote of the Records Committee.

Regular = seen every year or nearly every year, at least 8 of last 10 years (289 species).

Casual = seen many years but not all, at least 3 and less than 9 of last 10 years (15 species).

Accidental = seen once to several times, but less than 5 of last 10 years (74 species).

Extirpated = once regular or casual, but not seen in 50 years (4 species).

Extinct = no longer seen anywhere (2 species).

N = definite evidence of having nested in the state (192 species).

N? = probable evidence of nesting in the state (5 species).

(specimen) = existing specimen (303 species).

(photograph) = photograph published or on file (57 species).

(recording) = recording on file (1 species).

(documentation) = written description or published report on file (23 species).

Changes in the checklist from 1986 are as follows:

Species added (14): Magnificent Frigatebird, Tricolored Heron, Black-shouldered Kite, Snowy Plover, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Common Black-headed Gull, California Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, Ivory Gull, Ancient Murrelet, Eurasian Tree Sparrow (all Accidental except for Eurasian Tree Sparrow, which is casual).

Species deleted (1): Mountain Plover.

Species upgraded from generic status (2): Grooved-billed Ani, Rufous Hummingbird.

Species upgraded from Casual to Regular (6): Red-necked Grebe, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch.

Species upgraded from Accidental to Casual (6): Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Red Knot, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull.

Species upgraded from Extirpated to Accidental (1): Long-billed Curlew.

Species downgraded from Regular to Casual (1): Lark Bunting (due to error in 1986 Checklist)

Species downgraded from Casual to Accidental (3): Ferruginous Hawk, Say's Phoebe, Chestnut-collared Longspur.

New species confirmed as nesting (3): White-faced Ibis, Henslow's Sparrow, House Finch.

Species with evidence upgraded to specimen (2): Least Tern, Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Species with evidence upgraded to photograph (5): Mississippi Kite, Groove-billed Ani, Black-backed Woodpecker, Western Tanager, Green-tailed Towhee.

Changes in English names (6): Ross's Goose, Barn Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Lewis's Woodpecker, American Pipit, Harris's Sparrow.

Changes in scientific names (3): Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Burrowing Owl, American Pipit.

Species names follow *The AOU Check-list of North American Birds*, Sixth Edition, 1983, and supplements through 1991. Family names and taxonomic order are taken from *ABA Checklist: Birds of the Continental United States and Canada*, Fourth Edition, 1990.

Order GAVIIFORMES

Loons, Gaviidae

- Red-throated Loon**, *Gavia stellata*: Casual (photograph)
- Pacific Loon**, *Gavia pacifica*: Casual (specimen)
- Common Loon**, *Gavia immer*: Regular N (specimen)

Order PODICIPEDIFORMES

Grebes, Podicipedidae

- Pied-billed Grebe**, *Podilymbus podiceps*: Regular N (specimen)
- Horned Grebe**, *Podiceps auritus*: Regular (specimen)
- Red-necked Grebe**, *Podiceps grisegena*: Regular (specimen)
- Eared Grebe**, *Podiceps nigricollis*: Regular N (specimen)
- Western Grebe**, *Aechmophorus occidentalis*: Regular N (specimen)
- Clark's Grebe**, *Aechmophorus clarkii*: Accidental (documentation)

Order PELECIDIFORMES

Pelicans, Pelecanidae

- American White Pelican**, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*: Regular N? (specimen)
- Brown Pelican**, *Pelecanus occidentalis*: Accidental (photograph)

Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae

- Double-crested Cormorant**, *Phalacrocorax auritus*: Regular N (specimen)

Darters, Anhingidae

- Anhinga**, *Anhinga anhinga*: Accidental (documentation)

Frigatebirds, Frigateidae

- Magnificent Frigatebird**, *Fregata magnificens*: Accidental (photograph)

Order CICONIIFORMES

Bitterns and Herons, Ardeidae

- American Bittern**, *Botaurus lentiginosus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Least Bittern**, *Ixobrychus exilis*: Regular N (specimen)
- Great Blue Heron**, *Ardea herodias*: Regular N (specimen)
- Great Egret**, *Casmerodius albus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Snowy Egret**, *Egretta thula*: Regular (specimen)
- Little Blue Heron**, *Egretta caerulea*: Regular N? (photograph)
- Tricolored Heron**, *Egretta tricolor*: Accidental (documentation)
- Cattle Egret**, *Bubulcus ibis*: Regular N (specimen)
- Green-backed Heron**, *Butorides striatus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Black-crowned Night-Heron**, *Nycticorax nycticorax*: Regular N (specimen)
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, *Nyctanassa violacea*: Regular N (specimen)

Ibises and Spoonbills, Threskiornithidae

- Ibis species**, *Plegadis* sp.: Regular (specimen)
- White-faced Ibis**, *Plegadis chihi*: Casual N (photograph)
- Roseate Spoonbill**, *Ajaia ajaja*: Accidental (photograph)

Storks, Ciconiidae

- Wood Stork**, *Mycteria americana*: Accidental (documentation)

Order ANSERIFORMES

Whistling-Ducks, Swans, Geese, and Ducks, Anatidae

- Tundra Swan**, *Cygnus columbianus*: Regular (specimen)
- Trumpeter Swan**, *Cygnus buccinator*: Extirpated N (specimen)
- Mute Swan**, *Cygnus olor*: Regular (photograph)
- Bean Goose**, *Anser fabalis*: Accidental (photograph)
- Greater White-fronted Goose**, *Anser albifrons*: Regular (specimen)
- Snow Goose**, *Chen caerulescens*: Regular (specimen)
- Ross's Goose**, *Chen rossii*: Regular (specimen)
- Brant**, *Branta bernicla*: Accidental (specimen)
- Canada Goose**, *Branta canadensis*: Regular N (specimen)

Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*: Regular N (specimen)
Green-winged Teal, *Anas crecca*: Regular N (specimen)
American Black Duck, *Anas rubripes*: Regular N (specimen)
Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*: Regular N (specimen)
Northern Pintail, *Anas acuta*: Regular N (specimen)
Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*: Regular N (specimen)
Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera*: Regular (photograph)
Northern Shoveler, *Anas clypeata*: Regular N (specimen)
Gadwall, *Anas strepera*: Regular N (specimen)
Eurasian Wigeon, *Anas penelope*: Accidental (specimen)
American Wigeon, *Anas americana*: Regular N (specimen)
Canvasback, *Aythya valisineria*: Regular N (specimen)
Redhead, *Aythya americana*: Regular N (specimen)
Ring-necked Duck, *Aythya collaris*: Regular N (specimen)
Greater Scaup, *Aythya marila*: Regular (specimen)
Lesser Scaup, *Aythya affinis*: Regular N (specimen)
Common Elder, *Somateria mollissima*: Accidental (documentation)
King Elder, *Somateria spectabilis*: Accidental (specimen)
Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus*: Accidental (specimen)
Oldsquaw, *Clangula hyemalis*: Regular (specimen)
Black Scoter, *Melanitta nigra*: Regular (specimen)
Surf Scoter, *Melanitta perspicillata*: Regular (specimen)
White-winged Scoter, *Melanitta fusca*: Regular (specimen)
Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula*: Regular (specimen)
Barrow's Goldeneye, *Bucephala islandica*: Accidental (photograph)
Bufflehead, *Bucephala albeola*: Regular N (specimen)
Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus*: Regular N (specimen)
Common Merganser, *Mergus merganser*: Regular (specimen)
Red-breasted Merganser, *Mergus serrator*: Regular (specimen)
Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis*: Regular N (specimen)

Order FALCONIFORMES

American Vultures, Cathartidae

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*: Accidental (specimen)
Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*: Regular N (specimen)

Kites, Hawks, Eagles, and Allies, Accipitridae

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*: Regular (specimen)
American Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*: Extirpated N (specimen)
Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus caeruleus*: Accidental (documentation)
Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis*: Accidental (photograph)
Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*: Regular N (specimen)
Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*: Regular N (specimen)
Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*: Regular N (specimen)
Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*: Regular N (specimen)
Northern Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis*: Regular (specimen)
Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus*: Regular N (specimen)
Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*: Regular N (specimen)
Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni*: Regular N (specimen)
Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*: Regular N (specimen)
Ferruginous Hawk, *Buteo regalis*: Accidental (specimen)
Rough-legged Hawk, *Buteo lagopus*: Regular (specimen)
Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*: Regular (specimen)

Caracaras and Falcons, Falconidae

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*: Regular N (specimen)
Merlin, *Falco columbarius*: Regular N (specimen)
Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*: Regular N (specimen)
Prairie Falcon, *Falco mexicanus*: Regular (specimen)

Order GALLIFORMES

Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys, and Quail, Phasianidae

- Gray Partridge**, *Perdix perdix*: Regular N (specimen)
- Ring-necked Pheasant**, *Phasianus colchicus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Ruffed Grouse**, *Bonasa umbellus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Greater Prairie-Chicken**, *Tympanuchus cupido*: Accidental N (specimen)
- Sharp-tailed Grouse**, *Tympanuchus phasianellus*: Extirpated (specimen)
- Wild Turkey**, *Meleagris gallopavo*: Regular N (specimen)
- Northern Bobwhite**, *Colinus virginianus*: Regular N (specimen)

Order GRUIFORMES

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots, Rallidae

- Yellow Rail**, *Coturnicops noveboracensis*: Regular (specimen)
- Black Rail**, *Laterallus jamaicensis*: Accidental (documentation)
- King Rail**, *Rallus elegans*: Regular N (specimen)
- Virginia Rail**, *Rallus limicola*: Regular N (specimen)
- Sora**, *Porzana carolina*: Regular N (specimen)
- Purple Gallinule**, *Porphyrio martinica*: Accidental (specimen)
- Common Moorhen**, *Gallinula chloropus*: Regular N (specimen)
- American Coot**, *Fulica americana*: Regular N (specimen)

Cranes, Gruidae

- Sandhill Crane**, *Grus canadensis*: Regular N (specimen)
- Whooping Crane**, *Grus americana*: Accidental N (specimen)

Order CHARADRIIFORMES

Plovers and Lapwings, Charadriidae

- Black-bellied Plover**, *Pluvialis squatarola*: Regular (specimen)
- Lesser Golden-Plover**, *Pluvialis dominica*: Regular (specimen)
- Snowy Plover**, *Charadrius alexandrinus*: Accidental (photograph)
- Semipalmated Plover**, *Charadrius semipalmatus*: Regular (specimen)
- Piping Plover**, *Charadrius melodus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Killdeer**, *Charadrius vociferus*: Regular N (specimen)

Stilts and Avocets, Recurvirostridae

- Black-necked Stilt**, *Himantopus mexicanus*: Accidental (photograph)
- American Avocet**, *Recurvirostra americana*: Regular (specimen)

Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies, Scolopacidae

- Greater Yellowlegs**, *Tringa melanoleuca*: Regular (specimen)
- Lesser Yellowlegs**, *Tringa flavipes*: Regular (specimen)
- Solitary Sandpiper**, *Tringa solitaria*: Regular (specimen)
- Willet**, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*: Regular (specimen)
- Spotted Sandpiper**, *Actitis macularia*: Regular N (specimen)
- Upland Sandpiper**, *Bartramia longicauda*: Regular N (specimen)
- Eskimo Curlew**, *Numenius borealis*: Extirpated (specimen)
- Whimbrel**, *Numenius phaeopus*: Casual (photograph)
- Long-billed Curlew**, *Numenius americanus*: Accidental N (specimen)
- Hudsonian Godwit**, *Limosa haemastica*: Regular (specimen)
- Marbled Godwit**, *Limosa fedoa*: Regular N (specimen)
- Ruddy Turnstone**, *Arenaria interpres*: Regular (specimen)
- Red Knot**, *Calidris canutus*: Casual (specimen)
- Sanderling**, *Calidris alba*: Regular (specimen)
- Semipalmated Sandpiper**, *Calidris pusilla*: Regular (specimen)
- Western Sandpiper**, *Calidris mauri*: Regular (specimen)
- Least Sandpiper**, *Calidris minutilla*: Regular (specimen)
- White-rumped Sandpiper**, *Calidris fuscicollis*: Regular (specimen)
- Baird's Sandpiper**, *Calidris bairdii*: Regular (specimen)
- Pectoral Sandpiper**, *Calidris melanotos*: Regular (specimen)
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, *Calidris acuminata*: Accidental (documentation)
- Dunlin**, *Calidris alpina*: Regular (specimen)
- Curlew Sandpiper**, *Calidris ferruginea*: Accidental (photograph)

- Stilt Sandpiper**, *Calidris himantopus*: Regular (specimen)
Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Tryngites subruficollis*: Regular (specimen)
Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*: Accidental (specimen)
Short-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus griseus*: Regular (specimen)
Long-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus scolopaceus*: Regular (specimen)
Common Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*: Regular N (specimen)
American Woodcock, *Scolopax minor*: Regular N (specimen)
Wilson's Phalarope, *Phalaropus tricolor*: Regular N (specimen)
Red-necked Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus*: Regular (specimen)
Red Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicaria*: Accidental (photograph)
Skuas, Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers, Laridae
Pomarine Jaeger, *Stercorarius pomarinus*: Accidental (photograph)
Parasitic Jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus*: Accidental (specimen)
Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicaudus*: Accidental (specimen)
Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*: Accidental (photograph)
Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan*: Regular N (specimen)
Little Gull, *Larus minutus*: Accidental (documentation)
Common Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*: Accidental (documentation)
Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*: Regular (specimen)
Mew Gull, *Larus canus*: Accidental (photograph)
Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*: Regular (specimen)
California Gull, *Larus californicus*: Accidental (documentation)
Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*: Regular (specimen)
Thayer's Gull, *Larus thayeri*: Casual (photograph)
Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*: Casual (photograph)
Slaty-backed Gull, *Larus schistisagus*: Accidental (photograph)
Glaucous Gull, *Larus hyperboreus*: Regular (photograph)
Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*: Casual (photograph)
Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*: Casual (photograph)
Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini*: Accidental (specimen)
Ivory Gull, *Pagophila eburnea*: Accidental (photograph)
Caspian Tern, *Sterna caspia*: Regular (specimen)
Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*: Regular (specimen)
Forster's Tern, *Sterna forsteri*: Regular N (specimen)
Least Tern, *Sterna antillarum*: Regular N (specimen)
Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger*: Regular N (specimen)
Auks, Murres, and Puffins, Alcidae
Thick-billed Murre, *Uria lomvia*: Accidental (documentation)
Ancient Murrelet, *Synthliboramphus antiquus*: Accidental (documentation)

Order COLUMBIFORMES

Pigeons and Doves, Columbidae

- Rock Dove**, *Columba livia*: Regular N (specimen)
Mourning Dove, *Zenaida macroura*: Regular N (specimen)
Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius*: Extinct N (specimen)

Order PSITTACIFORMES

Lories, Parakeets, Macaws, and Parrots, Psittacidae

- Carolina Parakeet**, *Conuropsis carolinensis*: Extinct (documentation)

Order CUCULIFORMES

Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis, Cuculidae

- Black-billed Cuckoo**, *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*: Regular N (specimen)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*: Regular N (specimen)
Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*: Accidental (photograph)

Order STRIGIFORMES

Barn Owls, Tytonidae

- Barn Owl**, *Tyto alba*: Regular N (specimen)

Typical Owls, Strigidae

- Eastern Screech-Owl**, *Otus asio*: Regular N (specimen)
- Great Horned Owl**, *Bubo virginianus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Snowy Owl**, *Nyctea scandiaca*: Regular (specimen)
- Northern Hawk Owl**, *Surnia ulula*: Accidental (photograph)
- Burrowing Owl**, *Speotyto cunicularia*: Casual N (specimen)
- Barred Owl**, *Strix varia*: Regular N (specimen)
- Great Gray Owl**, *Strix nebulosa*: Accidental (photograph)
- Long-eared Owl**, *Asio otus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Short-eared Owl**, *Asio flammeus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Northern Saw-whet Owl**, *Aegolius acadicus*: Regular (specimen)

Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES

Goatsuckers, Caprimulgidae

- Common Nighthawk**, *Chordeiles minor*: Regular N (specimen)
- Chuck-will's-widow**, *Caprimulgus carolinensis*: Regular N (photograph)
- Whip-poor-will**, *Caprimulgus vociferus*: Regular N (specimen)

Order APODIFORMES

Swifts, Apodidae

- Chimney Swift**, *Chaetura pelagica*: Regular N (specimen)

Hummingbirds, Trochilidae

- Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, *Archilochus colubris*: Regular N (specimen)
- Rufous Hummingbird**, *Selasphorus rufus*: Accidental (photograph)

Order CORACIIFORMES

Kingfishers, Alcedinidae

- Belted Kingfisher**, *Ceryle alcyon*: Regular N (specimen)

Order PICIFORMES

Woodpeckers and Allies, Picidae

- Lewis's Woodpecker**, *Melanerpes lewis*: Accidental (documentation)
- Red-headed Woodpecker**, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Red-bellied Woodpecker**, *Melanerpes carolinus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, *Sphyrapicus varius*: Regular N (specimen)
- Downy Woodpecker**, *Picoides pubescens*: Regular N (specimen)
- Hairy Woodpecker**, *Picoides villosus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Three-toed Woodpecker**, *Picoides tridactylus*: Accidental (documentation)
- Black-backed Woodpecker**, *Picoides arcticus*: Accidental (photograph)
- Northern Flicker**, *Colaptes auratus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Pileated Woodpecker**, *Dryocopus pileatus*: Regular N (specimen)

Order PASSERIFORMES

Tyrant Flycatchers, Tyrannidae

- Olive-sided Flycatcher**, *Contopus borealis*: Regular (specimen)
- Western Wood-Pewee**, *Contopus sordidulus*: Accidental (documentation)
- Eastern Wood-Pewee**, *Contopus virens*: Regular N (specimen)
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, *Empidonax flaviventris*: Regular (specimen)
- Acadian Flycatcher**, *Empidonax virescens*: Regular N (specimen)
- Alder Flycatcher**, *Empidonax alnorum*: Regular (recording)
- Willow Flycatcher**, *Empidonax traillii*: Regular N (specimen)
- Least Flycatcher**, *Empidonax minimus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Eastern Phoebe**, *Sayornis phoebe*: Regular N (specimen)
- Say's Phoebe**, *Sayornis saya*: Accidental N (photograph)
- Vermilion Flycatcher**, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*: Accidental (photograph)
- Great Crested Flycatcher**, *Myiarchus crinitus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Western Kingbird**, *Tyrannus verticalis*: Regular N (specimen)

- Eastern Kingbird**, *Tyrannus tyrannus*: Regular N (specimen)
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus*: Regular N (specimen)
- Larks, Alaudidae
Horned Lark, *Eremophila alpestris*: Regular N (specimen)
- Swallows, Hirundinidae
Purple Martin, *Progne subis*: Regular N (specimen)
Tree Swallow, *Tachycineta bicolor*: Regular N (specimen)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*: Regular N (specimen)
Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*: Regular N (specimen)
Cliff Swallow, *Hirundo pyrrhonota*: Regular N (specimen)
Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*: Regular N (specimen)
- Jays, Magpies, and Crows, Corvidae
Gray Jay, *Perisoreus canadensis*: Accidental (photograph)
Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*: Regular N (specimen)
Pinon Jay, *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*: Accidental (documentation)
Clark's Nutcracker, *Nucifraga columbiana*: Accidental (specimen)
Black-billed Magpie, *Pica pica*: Accidental N (specimen)
American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*: Regular N (specimen)
Common Raven, *Corvus corax*: Accidental (specimen)
- Titmice, Paridae
Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*: Regular N (specimen)
Boreal Chickadee, *Parus hudsonicus*: Accidental (photograph)
Tufted Titmouse, *Parus bicolor*: Regular N (specimen)
- Nuthatches, Sittidae
Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*: Regular N (specimen)
White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*: Regular N (specimen)
Pygmy Nuthatch, *Sitta pygmaea*: Accidental (photograph)
- Creepers, Certhiidae
Brown Creeper, *Certhia americana*: Regular N (specimen)
- Wrens, Troglodytidae
Rock Wren, *Salpinctes obsoletus*: Accidental N (photograph)
Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*: Regular N (specimen)
Bewick's Wren, *Thryomanes bewickii*: Casual N (photograph)
House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*: Regular N (specimen)
Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes*: Regular N (specimen)
Sedge Wren, *Cistothorus platensis*: Regular N (specimen)
Marsh Wren, *Cistothorus palustris*: Regular N (specimen)
- Old World Warblers, Old World Flycatchers, Thrushes, and Wrenit, Muscicapidae
Golden-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus satrapa*: Regular (specimen)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus calendula*: Regular (specimen)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila caerulea*: Regular N (specimen)
Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*: Regular N (specimen)
Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia currucoides*: Accidental (photograph)
Townsend's Solitaire, *Myadestes townsendi*: Casual (photograph)
Veery, *Catharus fuscescens*: Regular N (specimen)
Gray-cheeked Thrush, *Catharus minimus*: Regular (specimen)
Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*: Regular (specimen)
Hermit Thrush, *Catharus guttatus*: Regular (specimen)
Wood Thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina*: Regular N (specimen)
American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*: Regular N (specimen)
Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*: Regular (photograph)
- Mockingbirds, Thrashers, and Allies, Mimidae
Gray Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*: Regular N (specimen)
Northern Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos*: Regular N (specimen)
Sage Thrasher, *Oreoscoptes montanus*: Accidental (photograph)
Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum*: Regular N (specimen)
Curve-billed Thrasher, *Toxostoma curvirostre*: Accidental (photograph)
- Wagtails and Pipits, Motacillidae
American Pipit, *Anthus rubescens*: Regular (specimen)
Sprague's Pipit, *Anthus spragueii*: Accidental (documentation)
- Waxwings, Bombycillidae
Bohemian Waxwing, *Bombycilla garrulus*: Regular (specimen)

Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*: Regular N (specimen)
 Shrikes, Laniidae
Northern Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*: Regular (specimen)
Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*: Regular N (specimen)
 Starlings and Allies, Sturnidae
European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*: Regular N (specimen)
 Vireos, Vireonidae
White-eyed Vireo, *Vireo griseus*: Regular N (photograph)
Bell's Vireo, *Vireo bellii*: Regular N (specimen)
Solitary Vireo, *Vireo solitarius*: Regular (specimen)
Yellow-throated Vireo, *Vireo flavifrons*: Regular N (specimen)
Warbling Vireo, *Vireo gilvus*: Regular N (specimen)
Philadelphia Vireo, *Vireo philadelphicus*: Regular (specimen)
Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*: Regular N (specimen)
 Wood Warblers, Bananquit, Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Emberizines, Blackbirds, and Allies, Emberizidae
Blue-winged Warbler, *Vermivora pinus*: Regular N (specimen)
Golden-winged Warbler, *Vermivora chrysoptera*: Regular N (specimen)
Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrina*: Regular (specimen)
Orange-crowned Warbler, *Vermivora celata*: Regular (specimen)
Nashville Warbler, *Vermivora ruficapilla*: Regular (specimen)
Northern Parula, *Parula americana*: Regular N? (specimen)
Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*: Regular N (specimen)
Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pensylvanica*: Regular N (specimen)
Magnolia Warbler, *Dendroica magnolia*: Regular (specimen)
Cape May Warbler, *Dendroica tigrina*: Regular (specimen)
Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*: Regular (specimen)
Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*: Regular (specimen)
Black-throated Gray Warbler, *Dendroica nigrescens*: Accidental (documentation)
Townsend's Warbler, *Dendroica townsendi*: Accidental (documentation)
Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens*: Regular (specimen)
Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*: Regular (specimen)
Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica*: Regular N (photograph)
Pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus*: Regular (specimen)
Prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor*: Regular N? (photograph)
Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum*: Regular (specimen)
Bay-breasted Warbler, *Dendroica castanea*: Regular (specimen)
Bluepoll Warbler, *Dendroica striata*: Regular (specimen)
Cerulean Warbler, *Dendroica cerulea*: Regular N (specimen)
Black-and-white Warbler, *Mniotilta varia*: Regular N (specimen)
American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*: Regular N (specimen)
Prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea*: Regular N (specimen)
Worm-eating Warbler, *Helmitheros vermivorus*: Regular N (photograph)
Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*: Regular N (specimen)
Northern Waterthrush, *Seiurus noveboracensis*: Regular (specimen)
Louisiana Waterthrush, *Seiurus motacilla*: Regular N (specimen)
Kentucky Warbler, *Oporornis formosus*: Regular N (specimen)
Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis*: Regular (specimen)
Mourning Warbler, *Oporornis philadelphia*: Regular (specimen)
Common Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas*: Regular N (specimen)
Hooded Warbler, *Wilsonia citrina*: Regular N (specimen)
Wilson's Warbler, *Wilsonia pusilla*: Regular (specimen)
Canada Warbler, *Wilsonia canadensis*: Regular (specimen)
Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens*: Regular N (specimen)
Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*: Regular N (specimen)
Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*: Regular N (specimen)
Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana*: Accidental (photograph)
Northern Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*: Regular N (specimen)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*: Regular N (specimen)
Black-headed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus melanocephalus*: Accidental (photograph)
Blue Grosbeak, *Guiraca caerulea*: Regular N (specimen)
Lazuli Bunting, *Passerina amoena*: Accidental (documentation)

Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*: Regular N (specimen)
 Dickcissel, *Spiza americana*: Regular N (specimen)
 Green-tailed Towhee, *Pipilo chlorurus*: Accidental (photograph)
 Rufous-sided Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*: Regular N (specimen)
 American Tree Sparrow, *Spizella arborea*: Regular (specimen)
 Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina*: Regular N (specimen)
 Clay-colored Sparrow, *Spizella pallida*: Regular N (specimen)
 Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*: Regular N (specimen)
 Vesper Sparrow, *Poocetes gramineus*: Regular N (specimen)
 Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus*: Regular N (specimen)
 Lark Bunting, *Calamospiza melanocorys*: Casual (photograph)
 Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis*: Regular N (specimen)
 Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*: Regular N (specimen)
 Henslow's Sparrow, *Ammodramus henslowii*: Regular N (specimen)
 Le Conte's Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii*: Regular (specimen)
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus caudacutus*: Regular (specimen)
 Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca*: Regular (specimen)
 Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia*: Regular N (specimen)
 Lincoln's Sparrow, *Melospiza lincolni*: Regular (specimen)
 Swamp Sparrow, *Melospiza georgiana*: Regular N (specimen)
 White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*: Regular (specimen)
 Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*: Accidental (documentation)
 White-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*: Regular (specimen)
 Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula*: Regular (specimen)
 Dark-eyed Junco, *Junco hyemalis*: Regular (specimen)
 Lapland Longspur, *Calcarius lapponicus*: Regular (specimen)
 Smith's Longspur, *Calcarius pictus*: Regular (specimen)
 Chestnut-collared Longspur, *Calcarius ornatus*: Accidental (specimen)
 Snow Bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis*: Regular (specimen)
 Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*: Regular N (specimen)
 Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*: Regular N (specimen)
 Eastern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna*: Regular N (specimen)
 Western Meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*: Regular N (specimen)
 Yellow-headed Blackbird, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*: Regular N (specimen)
 Rusty Blackbird, *Euphagus carolinus*: Regular (specimen)
 Brewer's Blackbird, *Euphagus cyanocephalus*: Regular (specimen)
 Great-tailed Grackle, *Quiscalus mexicanus*: Regular N (photograph)
 Common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*: Regular N (specimen)
 Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*: Regular N (specimen)
 Orchard Oriole, *Icterus spurius*: Regular N (specimen)
 Northern Oriole, *Icterus galbula*: Regular N (specimen)
 Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies, Fringillidae
 Rosy Finch, *Leucosticte arctoa*: Accidental (photograph)
 Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator*: Casual (specimen)
 Purple Finch, *Carpodacus purpureus*: Regular (specimen)
 House Finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus*: Regular N (photograph)
 Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*: Regular N? (specimen)
 White-winged Crossbill, *Loxia leucoptera*: Regular (specimen)
 Common Redpoll, *Carduelis flammea*: Regular (specimen)
 Hoary Redpoll, *Carduelis hornemanni*: Accidental (photograph)
 Pine Siskin, *Carduelis pinus*: Regular N (specimen)
 American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis*: Regular N (specimen)
 Evening Grosbeak, *Coccothraustes vespertinus*: Regular (specimen)
 Old World Sparrows, Passeridae
 House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*: Regular N (specimen)
 Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus*: Casual (photograph)

IVORY GULL AT RED ROCK RESERVOIR

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

At 1 p.m. on 24 December 1990, I arrived below the dam of Red Rock Reservoir, Marion County. I quickly scanned through the 40 or so gulls loafing and feeding immediately below the spillway. The only "different" gull present was a first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake. I then began sorting



through the hundreds of ducks when I noticed an all-white gull picking at something on the ice about 100 yards downstream. My initial impression was that the bird was an Iceland Gull because of the size as compared to nearby Mallards. I watched the bird for about 30 seconds before it turned around so I could see the head. I immediately noted the bicolored bill, dark area around the base of the bill, and black speckling on the wings and mantle which identified the bird as a first-winter Ivory Gull.

The bird was perhaps 10% smaller than a Herring Gull, but noticeably larger than a Ring-billed Gull. The most striking feature of the bird was the almost totally white appearance. The head was white except for some fine, black spots on the crown, nape, and cheek. There was a black smudge around the base of the bill, which extended about halfway between the base of the bill and the eye. This feature was less extensive than pictured in most literature, although Grant (1986) notes that this feature can be highly variable. The pupil was dark while the irides appeared yellow. The breast, belly, and flanks were also white, except for several black spots on the breast and a few on the flanks. The undertail coverts were white. The mantle was white with numerous small, black spots. The wings were white, and the black-tipped primaries were evident when the bird was resting. In flight, large, black spots at the tips of the primaries and smaller black spots at the tips of the greater and median secondary coverts were apparent. The basal half of the bill was dark, and was sharply demarcated from the yellow distal half. The shape of the bill was also distinctive; relatively short, straight, and somewhat heavy in general appearance. The legs and feet were black.

The Ivory Gull rarely associated with the other gulls present. It spent most of its time walking around on the ice edge, picking at dead fish. Sometimes it foraged over the open water below the spillway, catching stunned fish. The bird was easy to locate since it spent almost all of its time within 200 meters of the spillway. However, on at least two occasions I watched the bird fly west over the dam and disappear on the frozen reservoir.

The Ivory Gull was very cooperative, being seen by well over a hundred observers. The last verified sighting was on 1 January 1991. It is interesting that another first-winter Ivory Gull was discovered on 1 January 1991 at Springfield, Illinois (*American Birds* 45: 280).

This is the first accepted record of an Ivory Gull in Iowa. There is a hypothetical record of a first-winter bird at Rathbun Reservoir, Appanoose County on 20 December 1975 (Ayres 1976). Ivory Gull is a very rare vagrant to the Lower 48 states. Most records occur around the Great Lakes and along the northeast coast of the United States. I located 36 records for the Lower 48 States, with most occurring in December-January. There are records from 13 states; Washington (1), Colorado (1), Minnesota (9), Iowa (1), Wisconsin (4), Illinois (1), Michigan (3), Ohio (1), New Jersey (4), New York (5), Massachusetts (2), New Hampshire (1), and Maine (3).

LITERATURE CITED

- Ayres, C. C. 1976. A rare Ivory Gull at Rathbun Lake. *Iowa Bird Life* 46:15-16.
Grant, P. J. 1986. *Gulls: A guide to identification*, second ed. Buteo Books, Vermillion SD. 352 pp.

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Ivory Gull at Red Rock Dam, December 1990. Drawing from field sketches by L. Paul Hertz.

FIELD REPORTS--SUMMER 1991

JAMES J. DINSMORE

WEATHER

June was generally hot and dry. The average temperature (73.5) was 3.4 degrees warmer than normal making it the 12th warmest June on record. The end of June was especially warm with several days having highs in the 90s. Rainfall averaged 4 inches, less than the normal 4.5 inches but the first 6 months of 1991 were the 8th wettest on record. Most of the rain fell early in the month with 6 inches in Story County on 3 June, 3.8 inches in Atlantic in an hour on 14 June, and unofficial reports of 13 inches in Clayton and Fayette counties on 14 June. In contrast it was very dry at Fort Madison (0.23 inches) and Burlington (0.32 inches). Overall, most of the southeastern half of Iowa was fairly dry while the rest of the state had normal precipitation. Parts of Emmet and Kossuth counties also had considerable rainfall.



July continued with a pattern of being generally warm and dry. Other than parts of northern Iowa, much of the state received little if any rainfall. Southeastern Iowa had its driest July on record with less than 0.5 inches of rain. There were a number of days with highs in the 90s but in general temperatures were about normal.

The effect of all of this on birds was that in June there was an abundance of flooded field habitat but virtually all of that had dried out by the end of the period. The heavy rains in June undoubtedly flooded out nests of some ground nesting birds. Double-crested Cormorants and Great Egrets attempted to nest at several new sites. Perhaps these were birds that deserted colonies elsewhere because of high water.

GENERAL TRENDS

The good-news department included the continued recovery of Carolina Wrens, above-normal numbers of Least Terns, and the most nesting Piping Plovers reported in several years.

Among the migrants, there were numerous non-nesting ducks reported but few other nonresidents. There were only a few late spring migrant shorebirds, warblers, and flycatchers that remained into summer and no late vireos, thrushes, or sparrows as are found in most years. South-bound shorebirds arrived on schedule with fair numbers reported but I received no reports of early migrant warblers.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

In general this was a dull summer. The only Accidental species reported were Mississippi Kite and Laughing Gull. The only Casual species reported was Bewick's Wren. Some of the other better finds were Western Grebe, Sandhill Crane, Marbled Godwit, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Barn Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, and Red Crossbill.

With the termination of the Atlas project, there was a noticeable decline in reports of nesting activity. Some of the better nesting finds this year include Double-crested Cormorant in north-central Iowa, Great Egret in central, north-central, and

northwestern Iowa, Turkey Vulture, Barn Owl, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in north-central Iowa, Western Kingbird in central Iowa, Prothonotary Warbler in northwestern Iowa, and Kentucky Warbler.

SPECIES DATA

*=documented, [] = record date, m.ob. = many observers

Common Loon: Singles at Spirit L. on 7 Jun (SJD) and Pleasant Creek S. Rec. A., Linn Co. on 8 Jun (LSJ) were the only reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: There were numerous reports including broods at Union Slough N.W.R. (MPR), Lakin Slough, Guthrie Co. (BPr, MPR), Cardinal M., Winneshiek Co. (DC), and Swan L., Johnson Co. (THK, DRP).

Eared Grebe: 3 e. of West Bend on 2 Jun (MCK) and 5 at Rush L., Osceola Co. on 22 Jun (EIA, EuA) were the only reports.

Western Grebe: 2 remained at Union Slough N.W.R. until 3 Jul (MCK).

American White Pelican: There were the usual scattered reports from NW and NC Iowa; 500 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 30 Jun (MCK) was a large concentration for summer as were 200 at Bays Branch, Guthrie Co. on 29 Jul (EIA, EuA). In E Iowa, 1 was at Coralville Res. on 9, 20 Jul (THK, DRP).

Double-crested Cormorant: Besides the usual scattered birds, there were 120 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 30 Jun (MCK) and 100 at Coralville Res. on 14 Jul (THK). At Union Slough, nest building was evident on 11 Jun and 11 nests were seen while Coralville had 10 nests. The former is the first reported nesting in that section of the state in this century.

American Bittern: 1 at Eagle L., Hancock Co. on 7 Jun (SJD) and 3 Jul (MPR), and 1 heard near W. Hottes L., Dickinson Co. in early Jun (K. Van Rees fide JJD) were the only reports.

Least Bittern: Singles were seen in Bremer, Cerro Gordo, Emmet, Jackson, Mills, Muscatine, and Warren counties.

Great Blue Heron: Active colonies were at West Swan L., Emmet Co. (27 nests on 7 Jun, SJD), Saylorville Res. (58 nests on 12 Jun, SJD, BE), and Woodland Mounds Preserve, Warren Co. (3 nests in June, JSi). The latter was a new site. The only post-breeding concentration reported was 75 at Coralville Res. on 20 Jul (THK).

Great Egret: Two new colonies were found: 2 nests at West Swan L. on 7 Jun (SJD) and 4 nests at Saylorville Res. on 12 Jun (SJD). 30-40 birds at Union Slough N.W.R. from early Jun on were carrying nest material (MCK) as were birds at Plum Creek ne. of Algona (Rod Schmidt fide MCK). No active nests were found at either site. I know of no other active Great Egret colonies away from the Mississippi and Missouri rivers in this century.

Little Blue Heron: 1 adult w. of Perry on 2-5 Jun (PAI, RAI, R. Myers fide JJD) was the only report.

Cattle Egret: 2 summered near Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Green-backed Heron: A nest with 2 young was found in Glenwood on 21 Jul (DLR).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Nest building was noted at Eagle L., Hancock Co. on 7 Jun (SJD) and Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 was at the IPS Ponds near Sioux City on 23 Jun (BFH).

Snow Goose: 2 were at the IPS Ponds on 23 Jun (BFH), and 1 was at Hendrickson M., Story Co. on 21-25 Jul (HZ). 1 was found dead on 6 Jul just e. of Bellevue, NE. in Mills Co. (BP, LPa).

Green-winged Teal: Up to 4, mostly males, were reported in Dickinson, Fremont, Guthrie, Kossuth, Polk, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury counties.

Northern Pintail: None were reported; since this was a drought year on the prairies, this is unusual.

Blue-winged Teal: Broods were reported at Cardinal M. (DC) and New L., Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Northern Shoveler: Besides several broods at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK), there were 4 males and 2 females at Moeckley Prairie, Polk Co. until 11 Jun (BE), 4 at Forney L. on 15 Jun (SJD), and a male at Dan Green Sl., Clay Co. on 21 Jun (JJD).

Gadwall: 2 or 3 were reported from Clay, Dickinson, Kossuth, Pottawattamie, and Winneshiek counties in June.

Redhead: Besides a brood at Mud L., Palo Alto Co. on 21 Jun (JJD), 2 were in Mitchell Co. on 5 Jun (DC) and pairs were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 30 Jun (MCK) and Rice L., Worth Co. on 17 Jul (DC).

- Ring-necked Duck:** Up to 3, mostly males, were at 8 sites in Cerro Gordo, Johnson, Kossuth, Osceola, Pottawattamie, Winneshiek, and Woodbury counties. This is more than are found most summers.
- Lesser Scaup:** Up to 7 were found at 5 sites in Kossuth, Osceola, Pottawattamie, Winnebago, and Woodbury counties.
- Common Goldeneye:** A female was seen at Princeton M. on 4 Jun (ABa*).
- Hooded Merganser:** Broods were seen at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK, MPr) and Rush L., Osceola Co. (SJD).
- Ruddy Duck:** More reports than usual; besides 2 broods at Union Slough N.W.R. on 30 Jun (MCK), ruddies were reported in Cerro Gordo, Emmet, Hancock, Palo Alto (32 birds at Mud L. on 21 Jun, JJD), Polk, Pottawattamie, Winneshiek, and Woodbury counties.
- Turkey Vulture:** 2 downy young were seen in Taylor Co. on 9 Jul (BPr, MPr).
- Osprey:** Singles were seen at L. Manawa on 5 Jun (BP, LPa), Badger Creek L., Madison Co. on 24 Jun, 5 Jul (EIA, EuA), Coralville Res. on 9 Jul (D. Conrads fide THK), s. of Cherokee on 13 Jul (DBi), Effigy Mounds N.M. on 20 Jul (DC), and Bellevue on 31 Jul (PCP, MLP), more than in most years.
- Mississippi Kite:** 2 adults at Clive from 22 Jun on thrilled many observers (FC, AC, *RIC, *AMJ, *MPr, *JLF, m.ob.). Copulation and other breeding behavior were noted but no nest was found.
- Bald Eagle:** This was another good year for eagles. A total of 9 or 10 nests were active and overall production of young was good.
- Northern Harrier:** 1 ne. of Hayden Prairie, Howard Co. on 19 Jun (DC) might have been nesting while 3 females seen separately in Kossuth Co. from 23 Jun-2 Jul are more suggestive of early migrants (MCK).
- Cooper's Hawk:** An adult and immature seen near Coralville Res. from 25 Jun-15 Jul (Dave Conrads fide THK, DRP) were the only ones reported.
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 at Yellow River F. on 13 Jun (BPr, MPr) and 1 n. of Le Claire on 19, 20 Jul (PCP) were the only reports.
- Broad-winged Hawk:** 2 at Ledges S. P. on 12 Jul (MPr) and 1 in Yellow River F. on 23 Jul (DK) were the only reports.
- Swainson's Hawk:** 1 s. of Algona on 5 Jun (MCK), a nest in Osceola Co. on 15 Jun (JLF), and 1 or 2 seen at 3 sites near Mason City (RGo, JLW) were the only reports.
- Peregrine Falcon:** The D.N.R. continued its program to reestablish this species in Iowa by releasing 19 in Des Moines. At the end of July, only 2 of these were known to have died. They were joined by one of the birds released at Cedar Rapids in 1990 for much of the period (LSJ). A male from a similar release in Omaha showed up at the IPL Ponds on 28 Jul (BP, LPa).
- Gray Partridge:** 2 in Mills Co. on 15 Jun (DLR) were near this species' southern range limit.
- Yellow Rail:** I received a late report of 1 found dead near St. Anthony, Marshall Co. on the record early date of 4 Apr (Carl Kurtz fide JJD, specimen to Iowa State Univ.).
- Virginia Rail:** 1 at Rush L., Osceola Co. on 7 Jun (SJD) was the only report.
- Common Moorhen:** 2 at Cardinal M. until 17 Jun (DC), 1 at Lakin Slough on 8 Jul (BPr, MPr), and 2 broods at Green Island W.A., Jackson Co. on 28 Jul (JLF) were the only reports.
- American Coot:** I received more reports than in recent years including nests or broods in Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Hancock, Johnson, Kossuth, Osceola, Palo Alto, and Winneshiek counties. Coots were abundant in NW Iowa.
- Sandhill Crane:** 2 were at Green Island W.A. throughout the period (Ron Black and Forrest Fromm fide PCP). Perhaps this year's high water prevented them from nesting.
- Lesser Golden-Plover:** 1 at Colo Ponds on 19 Jun (HZ) was early (or late); 2 near Bancroft, Kossuth Co., on 12, 14 Jul were in basic plumage while 7 e. of West Bend on 21 Jul had a mixture of basic and alternate plumages (MCK).
- Semipalmated Plover:** The first fall bird was 1 at Coralville Res. on 8 Jul (JLF) [3rd earliest]; 12 in Kossuth Co. on 21, 26 Jul was the peak (MCK).
- Piping Plover:** It was a good year at the IPL Ponds near Council Bluffs with 11 adults, 3 broods with 6 young, and at least 4 nests (BP, LPa, SJD). There were 2 pairs and at least 2 young at the IPS Ponds (BFH, JLP). 1 in Kossuth Co. on 21 Jul was Kenne's first county record (MCK).
- Killdeer:** Post-breeding concentrations included 130 at Coralville Res. on 7 Jul (THK) and 88 at Colo Ponds on 9 Jul (HZ).
- Greater Yellowlegs:** 1 at Colo Ponds on 2 Jun was the last spring bird (HZ). 1 at Bays Branch on 4 Jul (BP, LPa) and 3 at Colo Ponds on 6 Jul (HZ) were the first fall arrivals. 28 e. of West Bend on 26 Jul was the peak (MCK).

- Lesser Yellowlegs:** 3 at Colo Ponds on 28 Jun (HZ) and 10 e. of West Bend on 29 Jun (MCK) were the first fall arrivals; 450 e. of West Bend on 26 Jul was the peak (MCK).
- Solitary Sandpiper:** 1 w. of Liscomb on 3 Jul (MPR) and birds in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGO) and at Coralville Res. on 4 Jul (THK) were the first fall birds. 202 at Coralville Res. on 20 Jul (DRP) was the peak and the most ever reported from Iowa.
- Willet:** There was a mini-wave this year with 8 reports; 5 were in a band through C Iowa from 28-30 Jun. 2 n. of Adel on 28 Jun and 1 n. of St. Joseph, Kossuth Co., both on 28 Jun (EIA, EuA) were the first; 9 e. of West Bend on 29 Jun (MCK) was the peak and 1 near Bancroft on 14 Jul (MCK) was the last.
- Upland Sandpiper:** I received reports from Boone, Cerro Gordo, Dallas, Fremont, Kossuth, Madison (brood), Palo Alto, Polk, and Story counties
- Marbled Godwit:** 2 at New L. on 16 Jun (BFH, JLP) and 2 e. of West Bend on 29 Jun (MCK, details) were the only reports. The birds probably were early fall migrants.
- Ruddy Turnstone:** 1 at Bays Branch on 29 Jul (EIA, EuA, details)[ties 2nd earliest] was the only report.
- Sanderling:** 1 in basic plumage e. of West Bend on 2 Jun (MCK) was the last spring bird. 1 at Red Rock Res. on 25, 29 Jul (AMJ, JLF) was the only other report.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 28 e. of West Bend on 2 Jun (MCK) and 21 at Colo Ponds on 3 Jun (HZ) were the last spring birds. The first fall birds were 2 at Booneville on 29 Jun (EIA, EuA). 150 e. of West Bend on 26 Jul was the peak (MCK).
- Western Sandpiper:** 1 at Coralville Res. on 8 Jul (JLF, details)[ties 2nd earliest], another there on 20 Jul (THK*), and 2 at Fairfield on 27 Jul (DCP, details) were all the reports.
- Least Sandpiper:** 4 e. of West Bend on 2 Jun (MCK) were the last spring birds. 2 at Bays Branch on 30 Jun (EIA, EuA), 2 w. of Liscomb on 3 Jul (MPR), and 3 at Colo Ponds on 3 Jul (HZ) were the first fall birds. The peak was 116 at Colo Ponds on 9 Jul (HZ).
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** 140 were e. of West Bend on 2 Jun (MCK), 14 were in N Polk Co. on 10 Jun (SJD), and 2 were at the IPL Ponds on 15 Jun (SJD)[3rd latest].
- Baird's Sandpiper:** 1 at the IPL Ponds on 12 Jul (BPA, LPA)[3rd earliest] and 9 e. of West Bend on 28 Jul (MCK) were the only reports.
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** 6 e. of West Bend on 9 Jun (MCK) and 1 with a broken leg at IPL Ponds on 15 Jun (SJD) were the last spring birds. The first fall birds were in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGO) and at Coralville Res. (THK) on 4 Jul. The peak was 650 e. of West Bend on 26 Jul (MCK).
- Dunlin:** 2 e. of West Bend on 2 Jun (MCK) was the only report.
- Stilt Sandpiper:** 1 at Colo Ponds on 23 Jun (HZ)[record earliest] and 2 at Moeckley Prairie on 28 Jun (EIA, EuA, details)[3rd earliest] were the first reports. The peak was 60 e. of West Bend on 21 Jul (MCK).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 3 at Saylorville Res. on 28 Jul (EIA, EuA, details)[3rd earliest] was the only report.
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** 1 at Colo Ponds on 6 Jul (HZ) and 2 at Coralville Res. on 7 Jul (THK) were the first reports. The peak was 40 at Coralville Res. on 9 Jul (THK) and 44 near Bancroft on 12 Jul (MCK), indicative of how rapidly the species moved into the state.
- Common Snipe:** 1 e. of West Bend on 26 Jun (MCK) was the only report.
- Wilson's Phalarope:** A pair at Eagle L., Hancock Co. on 7 Jun (SJD) was suggestive of nesting while single migrants were seen at Colo Ponds on 11 Jul (HZ) and Coralville Res. on 20 Jul. (DRP).
- Laughing Gull:** An immature seen at Saylorville Res. on 15 Jul (*BE) and one in similar plumage at Red Rock Res. 17-29 Jul (*MPR, *AMJ, *JLF) may be the same bird. Both reports will be scrutinized by the Records Committee.
- Franklin's Gull:** 3-9 at the IPL Ponds on several dates in June (BPA, LPA, SJD) and 1 e. of West Bend on 9 Jul (MCK) were the only reports.
- Ring-billed Gull:** 230 on Pool 19 on the Mississippi R. on 30 Jul was the largest group reported (RIC).
- Forster's Tern:** Birds appeared to be nesting at Eagle L., Hancock Co. (SJD) and Jemmeron Sl., Dickinson Co. (NB).
- Least Tern:** 11 nests hatched at least 6 young at the IPL Ponds (BPA, LPA).
- Black Tern:** Although birds were seen at several potential nesting sites, the only indication of breeding was adults carrying food at Zirbel Slough, Cerro Gordo Co. on 20 Jul (JLW). Counts of 160 e. of West Bend on 21 Jul (MCK) and 137 on Pool 19, Mississippi R. on 31 Jul (RIC) must have been migrants.
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** I received reports from Cass, Jasper, Kossuth, and Winneshiek counties.

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** I received reports from Allamakee, Boone, Dubuque, Fremont, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Kossuth, Lee, Marion, Page, Story, and Van Buren counties. I believe that both cuckoos are uncommon but certainly not rare.
- Barn Owl:** A family with 6 young was seen e. of Bedford in Taylor Co. from 24 Jun-9 Jul (LSJ, EIA, EuA, m.ob.). The landowner reported that they had also nested there in 1989 and 1990. This is the first nest reported in several years.
- Chuck-will's-widow:** 2 at Big Sand Mound Preserve, Louisa Co. on 6, 15 Jun (JLF, PCP), 2 at Pony Creek L., Mills Co. on 3 Jul (DLR), and 2 near Waubonsie S.P. on 8 Jul (BPr, MPr) were all at known sites. 1 heard near Westfield, Plymouth Co. on 13 Jun (Larry Farmer fide BFH) was north of its normal range in the loess hills.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** I received reports of 1 or 2 from Allamakee, Boone, Hardin, Johnson, Lee, Van Buren, Warren, and Winneshiek counties.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 2 adults and young at Effigy Mounds N.M. in Jun and Jul (DC), an immature male s. of Bellevue on 13 Jun (PCP), and 1 at Stokes Island, Allamakee Co. on 4 Jul (Carl Overman fide PCP) were all in the usual Mississippi River floodplain range of this species. Adults seen carrying food n. of Algona in June (Rod Schmidt fide MCK), a young bird seen in Algona on 4 Jul (MCK), and an adult male at Pilot Knob S.P. on 27 Jun (DK) are further evidence that this species nests across much of N Iowa.
- Downy Woodpecker:** One seen feeding suet to young House Sparrows in Algona in late June and July (MCK) defies understanding.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** 1 near Saylorville Dam on 2 Jun (BE) and 1 near Algona on 26 Jul (MCK) were the only reports outside of this species' usual range.
- Orange-sided Flycatcher:** 1 at Coralville Res. on 2 Jun (THK) was the only report.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 1 in Algona on 4 Jun (MCK) was the only report.
- Acadian Flycatcher:** 1-7 were reported from Allamakee, Dubuque, Van Buren, and Warren counties.
- Alder Flycatcher:** 1 at White W.A., Cerro Gordo Co. on 1 Jun (JLW, details) was the only report.
- Willow Flycatcher:** Up to 4 were reported from Cerro Gordo, Clay, Jasper, Johnson, Pocahontas, Pottawattamie, Winneshiek, and Worth counties.
- Least Flycatcher:** 1 or 2 were reported in Allamakee, Hardin, and Jasper counties.
- Western Kingbird:** Besides the usual birds in Mills (3 broods at 2 sites) and Fremont counties, 1 was near downtown Des Moines on 1 Jul (JSi), a brood was found near Des Moines on 13 Jul (SJS), and 1 was found e. of McCausland in Clinton Co. on 18 Jul (B. Blevins fide PCP).
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 1 in Iowa City on 5 Jun (*BBo) and another sw. of Pacific Junction, Mills Co. on 16 Jun (DLR, details) were both well described.
- Purple Martin:** At Elkhart, 90 pairs fledged 374 young, the highest nest success Mosman has ever had (DDM).
- Tree Swallow:** Two flocks of 500-600 were near Union Slough N.W.R. on 30 Jul (MCK).
- Cliff Swallow:** Carter thought numbers were up near Decorah while Engebretsen had the opposite impression for the Saylorville area.
- Brown Creeper:** 2 at Huron Island, Des Moines Co. on 12 Jun (PCP) was the only report.
- Carolina Wren:** A brood in Davenport in Jul (PCP) was the only evidence of breeding reported. I had reports of 1 or 2 birds from 10 other sites in Boone, Hardin, Jefferson, Johnson, Lee, Polk, Story, and Warren counties, an indication of the continued recovery by this species.
- Bewick's Wren:** 1 seen on 12, 22 Jun near Argyle, Lee Co. (BPr, MPr, AMJ) was the only report.
- Sedge Wren:** An active nest was found in E Marshall Co. in early Jun (Matt Patterson fide JJD).
- Eastern Bluebird:** Mosman's nest boxes fledged 170 young at Elkhart, one of his best years ever (DDM).
- Veery:** 1-4 were reported from Holst S. F., Boone Co. (MPr), Leverton Timber, Hardin Co. (MPr), White Pine Hollow, Dubuque Co. (MPr), Yellow River F. (DK), and A. A. Call S.P., Kossuth Co. (MCK).
- Wood Thrush:** I received reports of 1 or 2 from Allamakee, Cerro Gordo, Dubuque, Fremont, Jasper, Kossuth, Lee, and Van Buren counties. The only report of more birds was 6 males at Nine Eagles S.P., Decatur Co. (JSi).
- Gray Catbird:** A catbird giving the "kick-ee-do" call of the Black Rail near the site of a 1989 Black Rail sighting (JLW) raises some interesting questions about vocal records of the rail.

Northern Mockingbird: 2 in Van Buren Co. on 2 Jun (JLF), 3 at Red Rock Res. on 6 Jun (MPR), 1 near Des Moines on 13 Jun (AMJ), and 1 ne. of Elkhart on 18 Jul (DDM) were the only reports.

Loggerhead Shrike: 1 or 2 were reported from Cerro Gordo (3 sites), Fremont, Guthrie, Jasper, Johnson, Louisa, Marion, Story, Taylor, Van Buren, Wapello, and Warren counties.

White-eyed Vireo: 1 w. of Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 11 Jun (BPr, MPR) and up to 4 at the Croton Unit, Shimek F. on 31 Jul (RIC) were the only reports.

Bell's Vireo: 1-4 were reported in Bremer, Fremont, Johnson, Louisa, Marion, Mills, Muscatine, Pottawattamie, Story, and Van Buren counties. Peak number was 9 at Big Creek S.P. on 2 Jun (BE).

Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 or 2 were reported from Allamakee, Boone, Fremont, Hardin, Jasper, Johnson, Kossuth, Marion, Polk, and Van Buren counties.

Blue-winged Warbler: 2 at Shimek F. on 12, 22 Jun (BPr, MPR, AMJ) and 13 at Yellow River F. on 13 Jun (BPr, MPR) were the only reports.

Northern Parula: 1 or 2 were at the usual sites in Lee, Muscatine, Van Buren, and Warren counties.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1 at Holst S.F. on 5 Jun (MPR) was the only report.

Magnolia Warbler: A male in Ames on 2 Jun (LPH) was late.

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1 or 2 were reported from the usual sites at Ledges S.P., Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Saylorville Res., and Shimek F.

Cerulean Warbler: 1-3 were reported from the usual sites at Ledges S.P., Shimek F., Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., and Yellow River F. Other reports were 1 at Levertown Timber on 7 Jun (MPR), 6 at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 12 Jun (DC), and 2 at Lake Ahquabi S.P., Warren Co. in Jun (JSi).

Black-and-white Warbler: 1 or 2 were found at Waubonsie S.P. on 4-21 Jun (BP, LPa).

American Redstart: Carter found them common at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 13 Jul, and 8 were at Cone M. on 23 Jun (DRP).

Prothonotary Warbler: 1 or 2 were found at sites in Allamakee, Louisa, Polk, and Warren counties. A male was seen carrying food on 23 Jun in NW Warren Co. (JSi). A pair feeding 2 young near Marble L., Dickinson Co. on 23 Jun ("LAS") was far out of the species' usual range.

Worm-eating Warbler: 1 or 2 were found by several observers in the Croton Unit, Shimek F.

Ovenbird: Somewhat more common than other forest warblers, 1-10 were reported from Allamakee, Boone, Dubuque, Hardin, Jasper, Johnson, and Van Buren counties. A family group at Coralville Res. on 20 Jul (THK) was the only mention of breeding.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 1-3 were reported from the usual sites in Allamakee, Boone, Lee, and Van Buren counties.

Kentucky Warbler: Family groups were reported from Coralville Res. on 14 Jul (THK) and Shimek F. on 31 Jul (RIC). Other reports were singles at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 12 Jun (BPr, MPR) and Big Sand Mound Preserve on 15 Jun (B. Blevins fide PCP).

Hooded Warbler: 1 or 2 were reported from the Croton Unit, Shimek F. (RIC, AJ), and 1 was in Yellow River F. on 29 Jun (DK).

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 or 2 were reported from Lee, Marion, and Polk counties.

Summer Tanager: 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 9 Jun (SJD) and 1 near Shimek F. on 22 Jun (AMJ) were the only reports.

Scarlet Tanager: 1-5 were reported from Allamakee, Boone, Dubuque, Fremont, Johnson, Kossuth, Lee, Van Buren, and Winneshiek counties.

Blue Grosbeak: Besides the usual birds in Fremont and Mills counties, 3 were found on 2 Jun in Van Buren Co. (JLF).

Dickcissel: Petersen noted that counts on two of his eastern Iowa Breeding Bird Surveys were down from 1989 and 1990 (92-75-61 and 117-67-53 respectively).

Clay-colored Sparrow: The only report, 1 singing n. of Ames on 23 Jul (JJD), was unexpected.

Lark Sparrow: Besides singles in Boone, Lee, and Louisa counties, 12 were found in Fremont Co. on 12 Jul (BPr, MPR).

Henslow's Sparrow: 3-5 sw. of Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 11 Jun (BPr, MPR) and 1 there on 21 Jun (JLF) were the only reports.

Swamp Sparrow: Several adults feeding young at Union Slough N.W.R. on 12 Jul (MCK) was the only report.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Small colonies were noted at Swan L., Johnson Co. (THK), w. of Liscomb (MPR), near Kelly, Story Co. (SJD), and at Snake Creek M., Greene Co. (BPr, MPR), all on the edge of this species' range. This is typical of a wet year.

Brown-headed Cowbird: A young bird was seen being fed by a Northern Cardinal in Iowa City on 20-21 Jul (DRP).

Orchard Oriole: 1-4 were found in Cerro Gordo, Fremont, and Kossuth (2 broods) counties.

House Finch: I received few reports, perhaps an indication of the abundance of this species. They nested in Rippey, Greene Co. (SRL).

Red Crossbill: 2 were reported at Boone on 5 Jun (Lois Selil fide JJD) and a female was at the 4-H camp near Luther, Boone Co. on 22 Jun (Jim Pease fide JJD, details).

CONTRIBUTORS-SUMMER 1991

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COMMENT

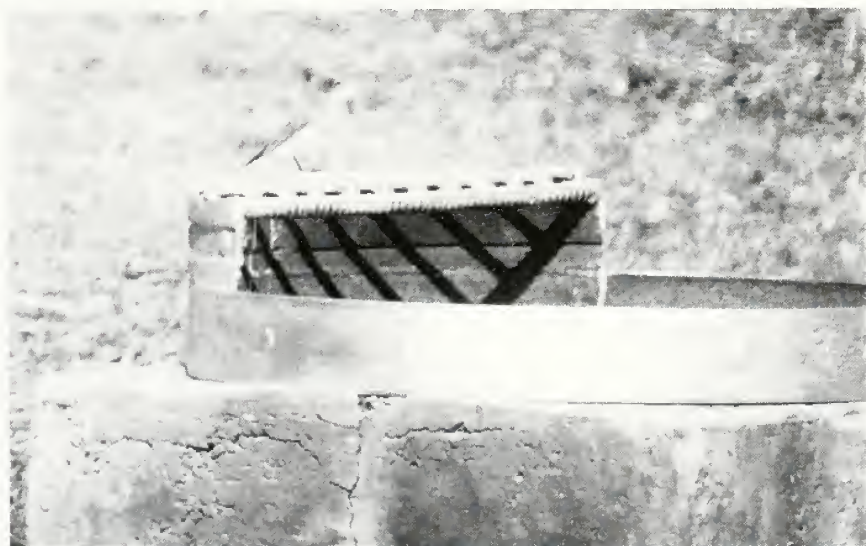
The latest "fad" in conservation circles is concern for a number of species, mostly songbirds, that nest in North America and winter in Central or South America. Many of these "neotropical migrants" are forest dwellers although technically the group includes Dickcissel, Upland Sandpiper, and both cuckoos. For the last several years I have tried to include here information on a number of these species that nest in Iowa. From my perspective, several of these species seem somewhat less common now than a few years ago. These include Wood Thrush, Veery, Cerulean Warbler, and Orchard Oriole. Tell me what you think in your report next summer. Some of us in Iowa hope that by then there will be a more systematic way available to survey these species.

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MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS AT LAKE ANITA STATE PARK

SHARON STEFFENS AND RON JOHNSON

On 4 March 1989, we drove to Lake Anita State Park near Anita in northeastern Cass County to see if any Eastern Bluebirds had returned to the area. While searching the scattered trees near the emergency spillway at the southwest arm of the lake, we were surprised to find a flock of about 25 Mountain Bluebirds. With their deep blue upperparts and light blue-gray undersides, the birds were easily identified. We had a video camera with us and were able to get some footage of the birds. The next day we returned to the park and were able to find only eight birds by the spillway but found a single bird at the picnic area near the main dam. That evening we called the Iowa Bird Line to report our find. A few days later we found only six birds, and on 11 March we could find only four birds. We last saw the Mountain Bluebirds on 22 March when we saw three together. We also saw our first Eastern Bluebirds on that date. Numerous other birders visited the park and saw the Mountain Bluebirds with the last report being on 24 March (*IBL* 59:83).



Mountain Bluebird at Lake Anita State Park, 4 March 1989. Photograph by Sharon Steffens

This is the fifth accepted record on Mountain Bluebirds in Iowa.(Dinsmore et al. 1984, Livingston 1985, *IBL* 55:28-29) and a sixth was recorded later in March 1989 (Thelen 1989). By month the other birds were found in March (2 records), April (2 records), and December-February. This is the only record to involve more than a single bird, and the occurrence of a flock of 25 birds is unprecedented for Iowa or other Midwestern states. Since bluebirds commonly migrate in flocks, it seems reasonable to assume that these birds became disoriented during migration and wandered to Iowa.

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LONG-BILLED CURLEW IN POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

W. ROSS SILCOCK

On 4 July 1990, I visited the Iowa Power and Light (IPL) ponds in extreme southwestern Pottawattamie County. Very few birds were present, most notably the resident Piping Plovers, but my attention was drawn to a large shorebird preening near the water's edge. Closer examination by telescope showed that the bird had a very long decurved bill, no head stripes overall evenly and finely barred brownish-gray plumage, and long bluish legs. During preening, the wings were often extended to exhibit diagnostic cinnamon wing linings. These features identified the bird as a Long-billed Curlew, a conclusion concurred with by Tanya Bray, who arrived soon after I did and also saw this bird. It did not stay long, however, allowing a total viewing time of only about 20 minutes. The Records Committee of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union has accepted this record.



This is only the third record of this species in Iowa in the last 50 years. Carl Priebe observed one with a Marbled Godwit at the Riverton area in Fremont County 11 April 1989 (Priebe 1990), and one collected 12 November 1968 in Emmet County is now in the Iowa State University collection (Priebe 1990).

Long-billed Curlew breeds throughout the interior western United States and adjacent Canada in its preferred habitat of moist grasslands. Populations on the high plains sections of the Great Plains are doing well, but populations further east are not. The species has not bred for many years in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois (Johnsgard 1981). The most easterly populations still doing well are in the Nebraska Sandhills, western South Dakota, and southwestern Kansas.

Considering the disappearance of eastern breeding populations, the paucity of records of migrants in Iowa is not surprising. Most Great Plains long-bills presumably migrate west of Iowa to their wintering grounds in interior Texas and the western Gulf Coast. Also strong flyers like Long-billed Curlew probably are non-stop migrants. It is also possible that the very few recent records east of the current breeding and wintering ranges are referable to the very small population which winters on the southern Atlantic Coast.

The three Iowa records cited above illustrate the timing pattern of this species' migration. Spring migration occurs in April and early May, with most egg laying in May and June (Johnsgard 1979). The 11 April 1989 Fremont County record appears to have been an off-course spring migrant. As in many North American shorebirds, fall migration timing differs by age-class (with varying amounts of overlap). Females abandon the young when the latter are two or three weeks old, leaving the males to

care for the brood (Johnsgard 1981). The Eurasian counterpart, the Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), considered part of a superspecies with *N. americana* (Mayr and Short, 1970), shows similar behavior. Females leave the brood to the males 10-20 days after the young hatch and join other females to migrate (Cramp and Simmons 1983). Given egg dates as early as 1 May in South Dakota (South Dakota Ornithologists' Union 1991) and 3 May in Saskatchewan (Bent 1928), and an incubation period of about 28 days (Johnsgard 1979), the 4 July bird in Pottawattamie County was probably a female which laid eggs in late May, close to the peak laying date for the species, and thus not at all unusual as a date of occurrence for a migrating female. The Emmet County record probably is of a very late juvenile migrant, the last age class to migrate. Such late dates (those in October and November) are unusual, and probably indicate a tendency for juveniles to disperse before migrating south. Most migration to wintering areas takes place in August and September. Indeed, all birds have left the Nebraska breeding grounds by early August (Johnsgard 1979).

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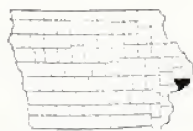
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CALIFORNIA GULL AT DAVENPORT, FIRST ACCEPTED IOWA RECORD

PETER C. PETERSEN

On Thanksgiving afternoon, 23 November 1989, Louise Augustine of Peoria, one of Illinois' top birders, called to say she had just seen a California Gull on the ice at Credit Island harbor in west Davenport. Mary Lou and I hastened to South Concord Street which provides an unobstructed view of the harbor. We located the bird standing on the ice at 4:25 p.m. It was intermediate in size between Herring and Ring-billed gulls which were standing with the California. We noted the head and body were white with some brown streaking on the head. The bill was yellow with a small dark area near the tip of the lower mandible. The legs were gray green. The mantle was slightly darker than nearby Herring Gull mantles. The head was very rounded, but eye color could not be determined. We observed the



bird with a Swift scope at 30 power. Louise used a Questar. The bird was about 100 meters away with the sun directly behind us. The bird was seen several days later by Jim Fuller.

Illinois had eleven records of the California Gull through 1987 (Bohlen, H. D. *The Birds of Illinois*, 1989) and two more for the fall of 1989, one on 12 August-6 September at Rice Lake Conservation Area near Canton and another from 20 October-7 December at Carlisle Lake (*Illinois Birds and Birding* 6:44, 1990). Several earlier Iowa sightings were not accepted by the I.O.U. Records Committee. Late fall gull concentrations should be checked carefully for vagrant California Gulls.

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SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER AT CORALVILLE RESERVOIR

THOMAS H. KENT

On 14 October 1990, I went to the Coralville Reservoir area in Johnson County to look over the many shorebirds I had seen the day before just in case something unusual had come in. At 9:20 a.m., I was scoping a large number of snipe, pectorals, and Killdeer that were in shallow pools and low wet grassy areas on the Swan Lake Road west of Greencastle Avenue when I first found the juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. I made the following notes at 10:05 a.m.: "As large as largest pectoral. Overall shape and behavior like a pectoral. First noticed that the bird had a neat rufous cap and prominent white superciliary line. Then noticed buffy color to breast. Bird darker on back and scapulars than pectorals and more rufous overall. Tertiaries neatly edged with rufous, and scapulars and coverts more rufous than any pectoral."



The shorebirds flew to a nearby pond. When I relocated them at 9:55 a.m., I was able to pick the bird out easily and get better looks: "The white line over the eye dips behind the eye, widens, and appears to go to the nape. Black line in front of eye (lores) but not prominent behind the eye. I did not see any color in the eye line nor did I detect an eye ring. I got an excellent look at the breast -- soft reddish-buff with no streaks and no bib line. Breast color tapers off at belly and throat is lighter. Rest of underparts white. Bill all dark. Legs dirty yellow."

I went home and called people. A crowd gathered after noon, but the bird was not relocated until late afternoon. It was with a large flock of pectorals and was seen intermittently. At 6:30 p.m. I made notes of the following additional observations: "Saw fine streaks on sides of breast. Supercilium extended in front of eye but thinner. Saw under rump where there was an indistinct gray smudge."

The sky was overcast in the morning, but mostly sunny in the afternoon. Most sightings were at an estimated 30 to 40 yards with a 20-power Bushnell telescope or through a Kowa telescope with zoom eyepiece.

The only other species it could be confused with was Pectoral Sandpiper. The most distinctive feature of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was the plain, cinnamon-buff breast without bib line or streaking centrally. The soft breast color shaded off evenly to the lower belly and throat. Some pectorals had very weak breast markings, but on close inspection all had streaks and a sharp bib line. The solid rusty cap differed from any pectorals; some pectorals appeared a bit rusty on the cap, but some streaking was seen on such individuals. The eye line appeared white, and it dropped and widened

posteriorly. Some pectorals had light eye lines but they were off-white, less distinct, and straighter. The juvenile feathers of the upper parts were edged with rufous; this was especially prominent on the tertials. Some pectorals appeared to have rusty edging on the tertials, but this was dependent on lighting and at least one rufous appearing pectoral had the color more in the center of the feathers with grayer edging. The gray smudging on the undertail coverts I saw once. I only had a glance at a nearby pectoral for comparison, so I was not very confident of this mark.

Sharp-tailed Sandpipers nest in north-central Siberia and migrate through eastern Asia to Australia and New Zealand. Vagrants are noted on the West Coast of United States and to a much lesser extent in the Midwest and the East. They are almost all juveniles found from September to November but there are a few spring records. This is the third record of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Iowa. The first, on 3 October 1974, was within one mile of the present location (Halmi, N. S. 1974. Sight record of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper near Iowa City. *Iowa Bird Life* 44:106). The second was at Credit Island in Scott County on 30 September 1988 (Petersen, P. C. 1989. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Davenport. *Iowa Bird Life* 59:90-91).

211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

WILD TURKEY SWIMMING IN LAKE MACBRIDE

RICHARD JULE HOLLIS

Carol Thompson and I saw a Wild Turkey swimming in Lake Macbride on the morning of 2 December 1990. This particular bird clearly did not intend to swim. But after flying across the south arm of the lake, more or less parallel to the causeway and gradually losing elevation, the bird probably had no choice as it had been airborne for between a quarter and half a mile. It splashed down about 10-15 feet short of the shore. It swam reasonably strongly and buoyantly until it reached shore, climbed up the bank, shook off its feathers, and trotted away.

I have not seen a turkey swimming before nor am I aware of other records such as this. Although records of various land birds swimming are not unusual, this record of such a large land bird being able to swim seems to me to be quite unusual.

3351 Lower West Branch Road, Iowa City, IA 52245



FIRST-WINTER CALIFORNIA GULL AT CORALVILLE RESERVOIR

THOMAS H. KENT

On 27 October 1990, at Babcock Access, in Johnson County I scanned the hundreds of gulls and shorebirds for about an hour and was about to leave when I saw a dark brown, first-year gull that I thought would be my first Herring Gull of the fall.

The bird was slightly larger than all the Ring-billed Gulls. The brown was not as dark as the usual juvenile Herring Gull that is seen at this time of year. I noted the light-colored bill. Later I saw a flesh-pink bill with small dark black tip. The wings



were a rather uniform brown with dark primaries. I noted light whitish-buff tips to tertials. When sitting, the bird's greater coverts were dark with lighter edging. The bird was longer than Ring-Billed Gulls and looked shorter legged. The legs were paler (pink) compared to the obvious yellow of Ring-billed Gulls. When the bird raised its wings, I saw a double bar on inner wing formed by greater coverts and the secondary bar. All primaries and their coverts looked dark blackish-brown. I did not see a window effect. The same wing features were seen when the bird was flying and feeding in shallow water with Ring-billed Gulls. The tail was dark with light base centrally owing to the all dark tail and lighter uppertail coverts. The bill was larger than that of Ring-billed Gulls but was not massive. The scapulars and coverts were edged with white. The breast was light brown.

The above observations were made with a 20-power scope at 200-300 yards over a period of an hour. Later, when the bird landed on a spit at about 100 yards, I was able to see it in a Questar with the bird occupying about one-fourth of the field. I made the following additional notes: "Bill long and relatively thin. Lower mandible straight (no bulge). Tip a bit more bulbous, but mostly on the upper part, and proximal culmen also curved upward. Tip of bill black but somewhat smudgy. Inner three-fourths of bill flesh pink with some smudgy black in middle of upper mandible. Rather elongated head with feathers extending onto bill. Head darker gray around eye and behind eye. Forehead lighter. Eye all dark. The wind blew the neck feathers exposing a lighter color underneath. Legs very pale pink. I saw the double bar on inner wing again through Questar as bird took off."

The next morning a number of birders gathered to find the bird again. It was not hard to pick out, as it was the only dark brown gull present. We noticed that the centers of the scapulars were darker than the centers of the lesser and median coverts giving an overall slightly darker appearance to the scapulars. The wing pattern was confirmed, and the size of the bird was as described above.

The many immature Ring-billed Gulls that were present had all reached first-winter plumage as evidenced by gray in the mantle, and they were much lighter overall than the first-winter California Gull. The only other species that I considered was juvenile Herring Gull. The size was small for Herring Gull. The elongated appearance and short legs fit California Gull. Most first-year Herring Gulls that I see in early fall have mostly dark bills that are larger than that of this bird. The double inner wing bar and lighter tertials tips fit California Gull. The overall relatively uniform and light brown color without windows in the inner primaries also made this bird look different from a Herring Gull. Serendipitously, I had an opportunity to study first-year California Gulls in California just eight days earlier.

The breeding range of California Gull is as close as northeastern South Dakota and many have been sighted to the east of Iowa, so it is a bit surprising that this species was not confirmed in Iowa until 1989 when an adult was at Davenport on 23 November (*IBL* 61:85; Petersen, P. C. 1991. California Gull at Davenport, first accepted Iowa record, *Iowa Bird Life* 61:121-122). Another adult was at Saylorville Reservoir from 8 September to 14 October 1990 (*IBL* 61:20). The bird reported here is the third record for Iowa and the first first-winter bird. Although first-winter birds could easily be passed off as Herring Gulls, I think this experience will allow me to recognize the next one.

211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

I.O.U. BUSINESS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Indianola, 13 September 1991, 6:00-7:45 p.m.

ANN BARKER SUBSTITUTING FOR SECRETARY HILDA SICKELS

Members present: Ann Barker (presiding), Eloise Armstrong, Bob Cecil, Rick Hollis, Diane Porter, Mark Proescholdt, Harold White. Also present: Francis Moore, Jim Sinclair, Jim Dinsmore.

Reports

The minutes for the 30 March 1991 meeting were approved as distributed (motion by Porter, seconded by Armstrong).

Treasurer: Copies of the revised 1990 financial statement and the statement for 1991 to date, prepared by Allen, were distributed. The revised 1990 statement was published in *Iowa Bird Life* vol 61, no. 2. The 1992 budget will be considered at the fall board meeting. All committee chairs, officers, and others responsible for I.O.U. funds should submit budget requests to Barker by 15 October, so that she and Allen can prepare a proposed budget. Allen requested the board's guidance in deciding whether to renew a 3 month CD. It was moved (Hollis, seconded by Cecil) to allow the treasurer, in consultation with the president, to decide whether to renew CDs with terms of 3 months or shorter. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

Records: Carl Bendorf recently resigned as Secretary. The 1989 annual report will be published in an upcoming issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. Francis Moore indicated that all 1990 records have been reviewed, and Bendorf is preparing the annual report. Voting on the revised checklist was just completed. Once it is compiled, a revised field checklist will be prepared. Moore has printed 800 copies of the 1987 checklist to be used until that time.

Publications: The committee has recommended that Dave Edwards be reappointed to a second 5-year term to be completed in 1996. It was moved (Cecil, seconded by White) to do so. The motion passed. *Iowa Bird Life* editor Jim Dinsmore indicated that the recent issue was slightly over budget. He estimated that costs for the journal for 1991 may be close to \$4,300. It was moved (Porter, seconded by Armstrong) to approve this level of spending for 1991. Motion carried. The revision of *Birding Areas of Iowa* was discussed. Hank Zaletel is in charge of the project with the assistance of John Fleckenstein. The committee recommended a ringbinder format with copies of birding areas articles to be loosely inserted in IBL. Dinsmore indicated that this plan would unduly increase both cost and workload. The board felt that it would rather see a compilation of articles in a bound format. It was suggested that authors be invited to update maps and content prior to publication. The committee recommended that a membership list be published and mailed with the next available issue of IBL. Allen and Dinsmore are preparing this. It was moved (Hollis, seconded by Porter) to authorize \$200 from the operating fund for printing of the list. The motion passed.

Library-Historical: Dinsmore reported that the committee recommended reappointment of Tom Kent, Jim Dinsmore, and Hank Zaletel to serve 5-year terms (two of which are retroactive) ending in 1994, 1995, and 1996 respectively. It was moved (Armstrong, seconded by Porter) to do so. The motion carried.

Membership: Presently the committee is composed of chair Jim Sinclair and, by virtue of her office as treasurer, Pam Allen. All terms of former members have expired, and no new appointments have been made. The committee recommended that Sinclair be reappointed to a 2-year term ending in 1993, and that the following appointments be made: Ann Johnson, 2-year term ending in 1993, and Diane Porter and Mary Jo Hartogh, 2-year terms beginning in 1992 and ending in 1994. It was moved (Cecil, seconded by White) to do so. The motion carried. Changes in the committee's bylaws were approved by the board in 1987, but never published. They will be published in *Iowa Bird Life* when space is available.

Education: Rick Hollis (Chair), Linda Zaletel, Beth Brown, and Diane Porter were reappointed. The Iowa Conservation Education Council has pledged \$500 toward publication of the curriculum package.

Big Day: Co-chairs Ray Cummins and Eugene Armstrong were reappointed. The 1991 awards will be presented at the banquet.

Atlas: Carol Thompson (Chair), Bob Cecil, Barb Wilson, John Fleckenstein, and Jim Dinsmore were reappointed. The committee is working with the D.N.R. toward publication.

Nominating: Barker has appointed a committee composed of Carol Thompson, Chair; Pete Petersen, and Ray Cummins to nominate a slate of candidates for the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and two board positions. They will report to the board at its November meeting. The slate will run for office at the spring 1992 meeting.

Old Business

Upcoming meetings: The spring 1992 meeting will be held at Camp Iodiseca near Cedar Rapids on 15-17 May. Dale and Helen Fye are making arrangements. The board expressed interest in having the fall 1992 meeting in northeastern Iowa, and the spring 1993 meeting in southeastern Iowa. Barker will contact potential hosts for the fall meeting; Cecil will look into possibilities for the spring 1993 meeting.

Jim Sinclair volunteered to host a field trip to the Red Rock area during the last three weeks in November.

Rick Hollis summarized work on the new I.O.U. traveling display which is finished. Much of the work on the display was done by Carol Thompson. The board agreed that she and Hollis should schedule use of the display. The board voted (Cecil, seconded by Armstrong) to commend Thompson for her excellent work.

New Business

Barb Wilson and Sue Stroyls proposed having an Iowa Spring Bird Count. Its purpose would be to systematically gather data on spring bird migration throughout Iowa, and to publish the results. It was suggested that the project be patterned after Illinois' spring count, which is done on a county basis with a coordinator in each county. Data gathering would be done in a single 24-hour period during the peak of migration in early May. It would be an ongoing study. After discussion centering on the purpose of the project and when it should be held, it was moved (Cecil, seconded by White) to recommend that I.O.U. sponsor an annual Spring Bird Count to be held the Sunday after the Saturday of the Illinois Spring Count. The motion carried with Armstrong and Hollis abstaining.

Jim Fuller had requested that the board consider making inquiries about obtaining entry for members to bird in restricted sites such as power company properties. It was moved (Hollis, seconded by Porter) to ask Fuller to make official inquiries about what would be necessary to obtain permits to be allowed access. The motion carried.

Fuller had also requested board input on using a computer bulletin board for access to other rare bird alerts and to post the Iowa Birdline. The board liked the idea, and voted (Porter, seconded by White) to encourage Fuller to further investigate it.

Fuller had indicated that an 800 number could be obtained for the Iowa Birdline. The board felt that information on cost was necessary before making that decision and encouraged Fuller to investigate further.

Breaches in dikes at Otter Creek and Big Marsh were discussed. It was moved (Cecil, seconded by Armstrong) to ask Jim Fuller to write a letter on behalf of the I.O.U. to the D.N.R. encouraging them to act quickly to repair both breaches.

The board is concerned about sagging attendance at both spring and fall meetings, and discussed ways to encourage members to attend. Hollis felt that more scientific presentations should be encouraged.

Cecil expressed concern that both present and past journal editors may have personally paid hidden out-of-pocket costs such as computer depreciation. It was suggested that the Publications Committee consider this at its next meeting.

BY-LAWS OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 30 MAY 1987

Purpose

1. To maintain an official list of members of the Union, both present and past.
2. To maintain and increase membership in the Union and institutional subscriptions to its publications.
3. To provide mailing lists of members and subscribers as needed for various purposes.
4. To actively promote the Union to members and potential members.
5. To represent the interests of the membership by making recommendations to the Board and others for ways to improve the benefits to the membership.

Committee Structure

1. The committee shall consist of five members, one of whom is the Treasurer of the Union.
2. The Treasurer's term is set by the Constitution. The other members shall be appointed by the Board for two-year terms with two members appointed every other year. Terms begin after the first annual meeting of the Union in the year of appointment. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms.
3. The committee may make recommendations to the Board for filling vacancies, whether expired or vacated.
4. The committee shall appoint a Membership Chairperson, who may be a member of the committee or any other member of the Union.
5. Qualifications for membership on the committee should include, where feasible, experience with other organizations, familiarity with the membership, and interests representative of the membership and consistent with the purposes of the Union.

Committee Procedures

1. The Membership Chairperson or any two members of the committee may call meetings as needed and/or business may be conducted by mail or phone.
2. The membership list should be maintained in a computer so as to provide rapid updating and printing of lists and/or mailing labels as needed. Preferably, the committee should find a volunteer to carry out this task or negotiate with one of the other standing committees (such as Publications) to do this.
3. The committee may enlist others to help carry out their mission.

Finances

1. The committee shall submit a prospective budget to the Board (via the President) prior to January 1 of each calendar year.
2. No monies shall be expended beyond that approved by the Board or President acting for the Board.
3. No member shall receive remuneration for their work on the committee. Any benefits, direct or indirect, to a committee member, appointee of the committee, relative or friend shall be discussed and considered by the committee prior to any decision to expend funds.
4. The committee should be reimbursed for expenses such as printing, mailing, computer supplies, and other incidental supplies. In general, unless it would provide hardship and prevent the necessary conduct of business, the committee should not be reimbursed for travel or telephone expenses.

BOOK REVIEW

A Field Guide to Western Birds, third edition by Roger Tory Peterson. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1990, 432 pp., hardbound \$22.95, softbound \$15.95. This third edition of the Peterson "western field guide" is a complete revision of the 1961 edition. The new edition has 165 plates (versus 136 in the old), all of them new although 24 plates were taken from the newest eastern field guide. Nearly all of the plates are in color, a welcome change since many of the plates in the last edition were in black and white. There are 441 maps, all redone by Virginia Peterson. The major difference in coverage from the 1961 edition is the elimination of the Hawaiian birds. By my count, the old edition covered 687 species (plus 60 Hawaii species) while the new one covers 757 species.

The species accounts cover field characteristics, similar species, voice, range, and habitat. As in the latest eastern field guide, species accounts are on the pages facing the illustrations, an improvement over the 1961 edition. The species accounts and maps have page references to each other, another handy addition.

The heart of any field guide is the completeness and accuracy of the plates. This book meets the usual high standards of the Peterson field guide series. Although the birds are a bit stiff, they generally portray the species accurately. For most species,

several individuals are illustrated, covering both sexes, different age categories, or several races. Some users might quibble about the shorebirds or gulls where some plumages are not shown but in general the book will serve most readers well.

I was also impressed by the timeliness of the book. What other field guide includes descriptions of the Pacific Slope and Cordilleran flycatchers? If you don't know what these are, you will need to buy the book. Since several other field guides cover all of North America, some will argue that a western guide is unneeded. Still many birders want a field guide that is specific to their area and that is not cluttered with species that they won't see. In general, I am impressed by the book and think that it will be used by many birders for years to come.--James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50010.



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